

Alumni Service: Kathy Coyle Murdoch, class of 1981



Kathy Coyle Murdoch '81 is being presented with the Pioneer Alumni Service Award due to her exceptional service and the significant contributions she has made as an alumna to U-High and Illinois State University.

First, it is important to understand Kathy's feelings about her school, her teachers and her classmates:

"Attending University High School was a life-changing event in my life. I was mentored by wonderful teachers who altruistically provided an environment to build my confidence and challenge my academic pursuits. I developed lifelong friendships with classmates who have supported me throughout my adulthood. At U-High, the moral foundation of striving to do my best and to give back to others was fostered and coached. I am grateful

and humbled to proudly call myself a Pioneer."

While at U-High, Murdoch received the Pioneer Award, was selected a member of the National Honor Society, was a class officer and student senate officer, and received journalism awards.

After graduation, Murdoch completed a bachelor's degree in Clinical Laboratory Science at Illinois State. Since that time, she has worked as a clinical laboratory scientist at OSF St. Joseph Medical Center in Bloomington.

Murdoch has extensive service with the University High School Alumni Association (UHSAA), as she has been a Board member since 1997. During her time with the Alumni Association Board, she served as homecoming chair in 1997 and was the awards chair in 1998 – 2001. Murdoch was instrumental in establishing the awards presentation in front of the study body assembly. She has also been editor of the Pioneer, U-High's alumni magazine since 2002. The Pioneer moved from a two-color to full-color publication during Murdoch's tenure as editor. During her time on the Alumni Association Board, Murdoch has also created job description notebooks for each board position and established a written guideline for incoming members to ease transition onto the Board.

Murdoch has also organized the 10-year and 25-year reunions for the class of 1981 and has hosted multiple impromptu "mini-reunions" at her home for several years. In addition to her work with U-High, Murdoch has served on the Illinois State University Health Science Alumni Board from 1987 – 1998 and is currently on the University's Alumni Board of Directors, a position she has held since 2006.

Thank you, Kathy Coyle Murdoch, for your positive contributions to University High School and Illinois State University. Congratulations on receiving the 2008 Alumni Service Award!